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THE

HISTORY

OF

LITTLE JACK.

By THOMAS DAY, Esq.
Author of the History of Sandford and Merton.

See fortune's scorn, but nature's darling child,
Rock'd by the tempest, nurtur'd on the wild!
With mind unsoften'd, and an active frame,
No toils can daunt him, and no danger tame!
Though winds and waves impede his daring course,
He steers right onward, and defies their force.

Embellished with Twenty-two beautiful Prints,
cut by Bewick.

LONDON:
Printed for John Stockdale, Piccadilly.
1800
[*Price One Shilling.*]

Entered at Stationers Hall.

BRITISH MUSEUM

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Hiſtory of Little Jack, inſerted in the Children's Miſcellany, having met with univerſal approbation as a piece excellently calculated for the peruſal of young children, the Publiſher, willing to diffuſe as extenſively as poſſible the entertainment and inſtruction to be derived from well-written works of this kind, judged that ſuch a purpoſe

would be moſt fully accompliſhed by his offering it to the public under its preſent form. In this he had alſo a view towards accommodating a numerous claſs of readers whoſe circumſtances do not permit them to become purchaſers of expenſive publications. The commodious ſize and reaſonable price of the following little book, it is thought, will completely anſwer theſe ends. And in order to amuſe the imagination of the young reader at the ſame time that his ſentiments are improved, a very conſiderable number of cuts ſuitable

ſuitable to the work, have been added, for the purpoſe of illuſtrating, in the moſt lively manner, the intereſting ſituations in which the little Hero of the piece is repreſented.

Upon the whole, it is hoped that the Hiſtory of Little Jack will make a reſpectable addition to the library of the very young ſtudent, and contribute, in common with other performances of the ſame kind, towards the improvement of the riſing generation.

THE

History of Little Jack.

THERE was once a poor lame old man that lived in the midſt of a wide uncultivated moor, in the north of England. He had formerly been a ſoldier, and had almoſt loſt the uſe of one leg by a wound he had received in battle, when he was fighting againſt the enemies of his country. This poor man, when he found himſelf thus diſabled, built

built a little hut of clay, which he covered with turf dug from the common. He had a little bit of ground, which he made a ſhift to cultivate with his own hands, and which ſupplied him with potatoes and vegetables. Beſides this, he ſometimes gained a few halfpence by opening a gate for travellers, which ſtood near his houſe. He did not indeed get much, becauſe few people paſſed that way. What he earned was, however, enough to purchaſe clothes, and the few neceſſaries he wanted. But though poor, he was ſtrictly honeſt, and never failed night and morning to addreſs his prayers to God; by which

which means he was reſpected by all who knew him, much more than many who were ſuperior to him in rank and fortune. This old man had one domeſtic. In his walks over the common, he one day found a little kid that had loſt its mother, and was almoſt famiſhed with hunger: he took it home to his cottage, fed it with the produce of his garden, and nurſed it till it grew ſtrong and vigorous. Little Nan (for that was the name he gave it) returned his cares with gratitude, and became as much attached to him as a dog. All day ſhe browſed upon the herbage that grew around his hut, and at night repoſed upon the ſame bed of

ſtraw with her maſter. Frequently did ſhe divert him with her innocent tricks and gambols. She would neſtle her little head in his boſom, and eat out of his hand part of his ſcanty allowance of bread; which he never failed to divide with his favourite. The old man often beheld her with ſilent joy, and, in the innocent effuſions of his heart, would lift his hands to heaven, and thank the Deity, that, even in the midſt of poverty and diſtreſs, had raiſed him up one faithful friend.

One night, in the beginning of winter, the old man thought he heard the feeble cries and lamentations of a child. As he was naturally

rally charitable, he aroſe and ſtruck a light, and, going out of his cottage, examined on every ſide. It was not long before he diſcerned an infant, which had probably been dropped by ſome ſtrolling beggar or gypſy. The old man ſtood amazed at the ſight, and knew not what to do. "Shall I," ſaid he, "who find it ſo difficult to live at preſent, incumber myſelf with the care of an helpleſs infant, that will not for many years be capable of contributing to its own ſubſiſtence? And yet," added he, ſoftening with pity, "can I deny aſſiſtance to an human being ſtill more miſerable than myſelf?—Will not that Providence which feeds the birds of

the wood and the beaſts of the field, and which has promiſed to bleſs all thoſe that are kind and charitable, aſſiſt my feeble endeavours?—At leaſt, let me give it food and lodging for this night; for without I receive it into my cottage, the poor abandoned wretch muſt periſh with cold before the morning." Saying this, he took it up in his arms, and perceived it was a fine healthy boy, though covered with rags; the little foundling too ſeemed to be ſenſible of his kindneſs, and, ſmiling in his face, ſtretched out his little arms, as if to embrace his benefactor.

When he had brought it into his hut, he began to be extremely embarraſſed

barraſſed how to procure it food: but looking at Nan, he recollected that ſhe had juſt loſt her kid, and ſaw her udder diſtended with milk: he therefore called her to him, and, preſenting the child to the teat, was overjoyed to find that it ſucked as naturally as if it had really found a mother. The goat too ſeemed to receive pleaſure from the efforts of the child, and ſubmitted without oppoſition to diſcharge the duties of a nurſe. Contented with this experiment, the old man wrapt the child up as warmly as he could, and ſtretched himſelf out to reſt, with the conſciouſneſs of having done an humane action. Early the next morn-

ing he was awakened by the cries of the child for food, which, with the aſſiſtance of his faithful Nan, he ſuckled as he had done the night before. And now the old man began to feel an intereſt in the child, which made him defer ſome time longer the taking meaſures to be delivered from its care. "Who knows," ſaid he, "but Providence, which has preſerved this child in ſo wonderful a manner, may have deſtined it to ſomething equally wonderful in its future life; and may bleſs me as the humble agent of its decrees? At leaſt, as he grows bigger, he will be a pleaſure and comfort to me, in this lonely cabin, and will aſſiſt in cutting

turf

turf for fuel, and cultivating the garden." From this time he became more and more attached to the little foundling; who, in a ſhort time, learned to conſider the old man as a parent, and delighted him with its innocent careſſes. Gentle Nanny too, the goat, ſeemed to adopt him with equal tenderneſs as her offſpring: ſhe would ſtretch herſelf out upon the ground, while he crawled upon his hands and knees towards her; and when he had ſatisfied his hunger by ſucking, he would neſtle between her legs and go to ſleep in her boſom.

It was wonderful to ſee how this child, thus left to nature, increaſed

in ſtrength and vigour. Unfettered by bandages or reſtraints, his limbs acquired their due proportions and form; his countenance was full and florid, and gave indications of perfect health; and, at an age when other children are ſcarcely able to ſupport themſelves with the aſſiſtance of a nurſe, this little foundling could run alone. It was true that he ſometimes failed in his attempts, and fell to the ground; but the ground was ſoft, and Little Jack, for ſo the old man called him, was not tender or delicate; he never minded thumps or bruiſes, but boldly ſcrambled up again and purſued his way. In a ſhort time, Little Jack was completely

ly maſter of his legs; and as the ſummer came on, he attended his mamma, the goat, upon the common, and uſed to play with her for hours together; ſometimes rolling under her belly, now climbing upon her back, and friſking about as if he had been really a kid. As to his clothing, Jack was not much incumbered with it; he had neither ſhoes nor ſtockings, nor ſhirt; but the weather was warm, and Jack felt himſelf ſo much lighter for every kind of exerciſe. In a ſhort time after this, Jack began to imitate the ſounds of his papa the man, and his mamma the goat; nor was it long before he learned to ſpeak articulately.

lately. The old man, delighted with this firſt dawn of reaſon, uſed to place him upon his knee, and converſe with him for hours together, while his pottage was ſlowly boiling amid the embers of a turf fire. As he grew bigger, Jack became of conſiderable uſe to his father; he could truſt him to look after the gate, and open it during his abſence: and, as to the cookery of the family, it was not long before Jack was a complete proficient, and could make broth almoſt as well as his daddy himſelf. During the winter nights, the old man uſed to entertain him with ſtories of what he had ſeen during his youth; the bat-

tles and ſieges he had been witneſs to, and the hardſhips he had undergone: all this he related with ſo much vivacity, that Jack was never tired of liſtening. But what delighted him beyond meaſure was to ſee daddy ſhoulder his crutch, inſtead of a muſket, and give the word of command. To the right—to the left—preſent—fire—march—halt—all this was familiar to Jack's ear as ſoon as he could ſpeak; and before he was ſix years old he poized and preſented a broom-ſtick, which his daddy gave him for that purpoſe, with as good a grace as any ſoldier of his age in Europe.

The old man too inſtructed him in

in ſuch plain and ſimple morals and religion, as he was able to explain. "Never tell an untruth, Jack," ſaid he, "even though you were to be flayed alive; a ſoldier never lies."

Jack held up his head, marched acroſs the floor, and promiſed his daddy that he would always tell the truth

truth like a ſoldier. But the old man, as he was ſomething of a ſcholar, had a great ambition that his darling ſhould learn to read and write; and this was a work of ſome difficulty; for he had neither printed book, nor pens, nor paper, in his cabin. Induſtry, however, enables us to overcome difficulties; in the ſummer-time, as the old man ſat before his cottage, he would draw letters in the ſand, and teach Jack to name them ſingly, until he was acquainted with the whole alphabet. He then proceeded to ſyllables, and after that to words; all which his little pupil learned to pronounce with great facility: and, as he had a ſtrong propenſity

penſity to imitate what he ſaw, he not only acquired the power of reading words, but of tracing all the letters which compoſed them, on the ſand.

About this time, the poor goat which had nurſed Jack ſo faithfully, grew ill and died. He tended her with the greateſt affection and aſſiduity during her illneſs, brought her the freſheſt herbs for food, and would frequently ſupport her head for hours together upon his little boſom. But it was all in vain; he loſt his poor mammy, as he uſed to call her, and was for ſome time inconſolable; for Jack, though his knowledge was bounded, had an uncommon degree

of

of gratitude and affection in his temper. He was not able to talk as finely about love, tenderneſs, and ſenſibility, as many other little boys, that have enjoyed greater advantages of education; but he felt the reality of them in his heart, and thought it ſo natural to love every thing that loves us, that he never even ſuſpected it was poſſible to do otherwiſe. The poor goat was buried in the old man's garden, and thither Little Jack would often come and call upon his poor mammy Nan, and aſk her why ſhe had left him? One day, as he was thus employed, a lady happened to come by in a carriage, and overheard him before he was aware. Jack ran

in an inſtant to open the gate; but the lady ſtopped, and aſked him whom he

was bemoaning ſo pitifully, and calling upon. Jack anſwered, that it was his poor mammy, that was buried in the garden. The lady thought it very odd to hear of ſuch a burial-place, and therefore proceeded

ceeded to queſtion him. "How did your mamma get her living?" ſaid ſhe. "She uſed to graze here upon the common all day long," ſaid Jack. The lady was ſtill more aſtoniſhed; but the old man came out of his hut, and explained the whole affair to her, which ſurpriſed her very much; for though this lady had ſeen a great deal of the world, and had read a variety of books, it had never once entered into her head that a child might grow ſtrong and vigorous by ſucking a goat, inſtead of eating pap. She therefore looked at Jack with amazement, admired his brown but animated face, and praiſed his ſhape and activity. "Will

you go with me, little boy?" ſaid ſhe, "and I will take care of you, if you behave well."—"No," ſaid Jack, "I muſt ſtay with daddy; he has taken care of me for many years, and now I muſt take care of him; otherwiſe I ſhould like very well to go with ſuch a ſweet, good-natured lady." The lady was not diſpleaſed with Jack's anſwer, and putting her hand in her pocket, gave him half a crown, to buy him ſhoes and ſtockings, and purſued her journey.

Jack was not unacquainted with the uſe of money, as he had been often ſent to the next village to purchaſe bread and neceſſaries; but he was totally unacquainted with the

uſe

uſe of ſhoes and ſtockings, which he had never worn in his life, or felt the want of. The next day, however, the old man bade him run to town, and lay his money out as the lady had deſired; for he had too much honour to think of diſobeying her commands, or ſuffering it to be expended for any other purpoſe. It was not long before Jack returned; but the old man was much ſurpriſed to ſee him come back as bare as he went out. "Heigh, Jack!" ſaid he, "where are the ſhoes and ſtockings which you were to purchaſe?"—"Daddy," anſwered Jack, "I went to the ſhop, and tried a pair for ſport, but found them ſo cumberſome, that I could

not walk, and I would not wear ſuch things, even if the lady would give me another half-crown for doing it; ſo I laid my money out in a warm jacket for you, becauſe the winter is coming on, and you ſeem to be more afraid of the cold than formerly." Many ſuch inſtances of conduct did Jack diſplay; from which it was eaſy to perceive, that he had an excellent ſoul and generous temper. One failing, indeed, Jack was liable to: though a very good-natured boy, he was a little too jealous of his honour. His daddy had taught him the uſe of his hands and legs, and Jack had ſuch diſpoſitions for the art of boxing, that he could beat every

boy

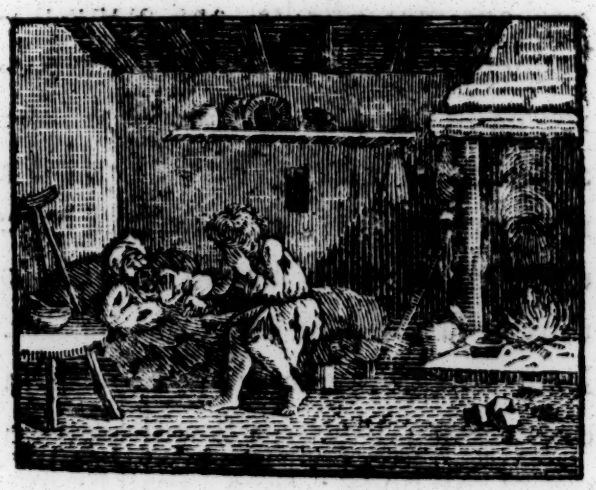
boy in the neighbourhood, of his age and ſize. Even if they were a head taller, it made no difference to Jack, provided they ſaid any thing to wound his honour; for, otherwiſe he was the moſt mild, pacific creature in the world. One day, that he had been ſent to the village, he returned with his eyes black, and his face ſwelled to a frightful ſize: it was even with difficulty that he was able to walk at all, ſo ſore was he with the pommelling he had received. "What have you been doing now, Jack?" ſaid the old man. "Only fighting with Dick the butcher."—"You rogue," ſaid the old man, "he is twice as big as you are, and the beſt fighter in

in all the country."--"What does that ſignify?" ſaid Jack: "he called you an old beggar-man, and then I ſtruck him; and I will ſtrike him again whenever he calls you ſo, even if he ſhould beat me to pieces; for you know, daddy, that you are not a beggar-man, but a ſoldier."

In this manner lived Little Jack, until he was twelve years old: at this time his poor old daddy fell ſick, and became incapable of moving about. Jack did every thing he could think of for the poor man; he made him broths, he fed him with his own hands, he watched whole nights by his bed-ſide, ſupporting his head, and helping him when he want-

ed

ed to move. But it was all in vain; his poor daddy grew daily worſe, and perceived it to be impoſſible that he ſhould recover. He one day therefore called Little Jack to his bed-ſide, and preſſing his hand affectionately, told him that he was juſt going to die. Little Jack burſt into a



flood

flood of tears at this information; but his daddy desired him to compose himself, and attend to the last advice he should be able to give him. "I have lived," said the old man, "a great many years in poverty, but I do not know that I have been worse off than if I had been rich. I have avoided perhaps many faults, and many uneasinesses, which I should have incurred had I been in another situation; and though I have often wanted a meal and always fared hard, I have enjoyed as much health and life as usually falls to the lot of my betters. I am now going to die; I feel it in every part; the breath will soon be out of my body; then I shall be put

in

in the ground, and the worms will eat your poor old daddy." At this Jack renewed his tears and ſobbings, for he was unable to reſtrain them. But the old man ſaid, "Have patience, my child; though I ſhould leave this world, as I have always been ſtrictly honeſt, and endeavoured to do my duty, I do not doubt but God will pity me, and convey me to a better place, where I ſhall be happier than I have ever been here. This is what I have always taught you, and this belief gives me the greateſt comfort in my laſt moments. The only regret I feel, is for you, my deareſt child, whom I leave unprovided for. But you are ſtrong and

and vigorous, and almoſt able to get your living. As ſoon as I am dead, you muſt go to the next village, and inform the people, that they may come and bury me. You muſt then endeavour to get into ſervice, and work for your living; and, if you are ſtrictly honeſt and ſober, I do not doubt that you will find a livelihood, and that God, who is the common father of all, will protect and bleſs you. Adieu, my child; I grow fainter and fainter. Never forget your poor old daddy, nor the example he has ſet you; but, in every ſituation of life, diſcharge your duty, and live like a ſoldier, and a chriſtian." When the old man had with difficulty

culty uttered these last instructions, his voice entirely failed him, his limbs grew cold and stiff, and in a few minutes he expired without a groan. Little Jack, who hung crying over his daddy, called upon him in vain, in vain endeavoured to revive him. At length he pulled off his clothes, went into his daddy's bed, and endeavoured for many hours to animate him with the warmth of his own body; but finding all his endeavours fruitless, he concluded that he was indeed dead; and therefore, weeping bitterly, he dreſt himself, and went to the village, as he had been ordered. The poor little boy was thus left entirely des-

titute, and knew not what to do; but one of the farmers, who had been acquainted with him before, offered to take him into his houſe, and give him his victuals, for a few months, till he could find a ſervice. Jack thankfully accepted the offer, and ſerved him faithfully for ſeveral months; during which time he learnt to milk, to drive the plough, and never refuſed any kind of work he was able to perform. But, by ill luck, this good-natured farmer contracted a fever, by overheating himſelf in the harveſt, and died in the beginning of winter. His wife was therefore obliged to diſcharge her ſervants, and Jack was again turned

loose upon the world, with only his clothes, and a shilling in his pocket, which his kind mistress had made him a present of. He was very sorry for the loss of his master; but he was now grown bigger and stronger, and thought he should easily find employment. He therefore set out upon his travels, walking all day, and inquiring at every farm-house for work. But in this attempt he was unfortunate, for nobody chose to employ a stranger; and though he lived with the greatest economy, he soon found himself in a worse situation than ever, without a farthing in his pocket, or a morsel of bread to eat. Jack however was not of a tem-

per to be eaſily caſt down; he walked reſolutely on all day, but towards evening was overtaken by a violent ſtorm of rain, which wetted him to the ſkin before he could find a buſh for ſhelter. Now poor Jack began to think of his old daddy, and the comforts he had formerly enjoyed upon the common, where he had always a roof to ſhelter him, and a ſlice of bread for ſupper. But tears and lamentations were vain; and therefore, as ſoon as the ſtorm was over, he purſued his journey, in hopes of finding ſome barn or out-houſe to creep into for the reſt of the night. While he was thus wandering about, he ſaw at ſome diſtance a great light,

which

which ſeemed to come from ſome prodigious fire. Jack did not know what this could be; but in his preſent ſituation, he thought a fire no diſagreeable object, and therefore determined to approach it. When he came nearer, he ſaw a large building, which ſeemed to ſpout fire

and ſmoke at ſeveral openings, and heard an inceſſant noiſe of blows, and the rattling of chains. Jack was at firſt a little frightened, but ſummoning all his courage, he crept cautiouſly on to the building, and looking through a chink, diſcovered ſeveral men and boys employed in blowing fires and hammering burning maſſes of iron. This was a very comfortable ſight to him in his preſent forlorn condition; ſo finding a door half open, he ventured in, and placed himſelf as near as he dared to one of the flaming furnaces. It was not long before he was diſcovered by one of the workmen, who aſked him, roughly, what buſineſs

he

he had there? Jack anſwered, with great humility, that he was a poor boy looking out for work; that he had had no food all day, and was wet to the ſkin with the rain, which was evident enough from the appearance of his clothes. By great good luck, the man he ſpoke to was good-natured, and therefore not only permitted him to ſtay by the fire, but gave him ſome broken victuals for his ſupper. After this, he laid himſelf down in a corner, and ſlept without diſturbance till morning. He was ſcarcely awake the next day, when the maſter of the forge came in to overlook his men, who finding Jack and hearing his ſtory, began to reproach

proach him as a lazy vagabond, and aſked him why he did not work for his living. Jack aſſured him there was nothing he ſo earneſtly deſired, and that if he would pleaſe to employ him, there was nothing that he would not do to earn a ſubſiſtence. "Well, my boy," ſaid the maſter, "if this is true, you ſhall ſoon be tried; nobody need be idle here." So calling his foreman, he ordered him to ſet that lad to work, and pay him in proportion to his deſerts. Jack now thought himſelf completely happy, and worked with ſo much aſſiduity, that he ſoon gained a comfortable livelihood, and acquired the eſteem of his maſter.

But,

But, unfortunately, he was a little too unreſerved in his converſation, and communicated the ſtory of his former life and education. This was great matter of diverſion to all the other boys of the forge; who whenever they were inclined to be merry, would call him Little Jack the beggar-boy, and imitate the baaing of a goat. This was too much for his iraſcible temper, and he never failed to reſent it; by which means he was engaged in continual quarrels and combats, to the great diſturbance of the houſe; ſo that his maſter, though in other reſpects perfectly ſatisfied with his behaviour, began

began to fear that he ſhould at laſt be obliged to diſcharge him.

It happened one day that a large company of gentlemen and ladies were introduced to ſee the works.

The maſter attended them, and explained, with great politeneſs, every part

part of his manufacture. They viewed with aſtoniſhment the different methods by which that uſeful and neceſſary ore of iron is rendered fit for human uſe. They examined the furnaces where it is melted down, to diſengage it from the droſs, with which it is mixed in the bowels of the earth, and whence it runs down in liquid torrents like fire. They beheld with equal pleaſure the prodigious hammers which, moved by the force of water, mould it into maſſy bars, for the ſervice of man. While they were buſy in examining theſe different proceſſes, they were alarmed by a ſudden noiſe of diſcord, which broke out on the other

other ſide of the building; and the maſter inquiring into the cauſe, was told, that it was only Little Jack who was fighting with Tom the Collier.

At this, the maſter cried out, in a paſſion, "There is no peace to be expected in the furnace, while that little raſcal is employed; ſend him to

me,

me, and I will inſtantly diſcharge him." At this moment Jack appeared, all covered with blood and dirt, and ſtood before his angry judge in a modeſt but reſolute poſture. "Is this the reward," ſaid his maſter, "you little audacious vagabond, for all my kindneſs? Can you never refrain a ſingle inſtant from broils and fighting? But I am determined to bear it no longer: and therefore you ſhall never, from this hour, do a ſingle ſtroke of work for me".—"Sir," replied Jack, with great humility, but yet with firmneſs, "I am extremely ſorry to have diſobliged you, nor have I ever done it willingly ſince I have been here; and

if the other boys would only mind their buſineſs as well as I do, and not moleſt me, you would not have been offended now; for I defy them all to ſay, that ſince I have been in the houſe I have ever given any one the leaſt provocation, or ever refuſed, to the utmoſt of my ſtrength, to do whatever I have been ordered."— "That's true in good faith," ſaid the foreman; "I muſt do Little Jack the juſtice to ſay that there is not a more honeſt, ſober, and induſtrious lad about the place. Set him to what you will, he never ſkulks, never grumbles, never ſlights his work; and if it were not for a little paſſion and fighting, I don't believe there

would

would be his fellow in England."—"Well," ſaid the maſter, a little mollified, "but what is the cauſe of all this ſudden diſturbance?"—"Sir," anſwered Jack, "it is Tom that has been abuſing me, and telling me that my father was a beggar-man and my mother a nanny-goat; and, when I deſired him to be quiet, he went baaing all about the houſe; and this I could not bear, for as to my poor father, he was an honeſt ſoldier, and if I did ſuck a goat, ſhe was the beſt creature in the world; and I won't hear her abuſed while I have any ſtrength in my body." At this harangue the whole audience were ſcarcely able to refrain from laugh-

ing; and the maſter, with more compoſure, told Jack to mind his buſineſs, and threatened the other boys with puniſhment, if they diſturbed him.

But a lady who was in company ſeemed particularly intereſted about Little Jack, and when ſhe had heard his ſtory, ſaid, "This muſt certainly be the little boy who opened a gate ſeveral years paſt for me upon Norcot Moor. I remember being ſtruck with his appearance, and hearing him lament the loſs of the goat that nurſed him. I was very much affected then with his hiſtory; and ſince he deſerves ſo good a character, if you will part with him, I will

will inſtantly take him into my ſervice." The maſter replied, that he ſhould part with him with great ſatisfaction to ſuch an excellent miſtreſs; that indeed the boy deſerved all the commendations which had been given; but ſince the other lads had ſuch an habit of plaguing, and Jack was of ſo impatient a temper, he deſpaired of ever compoſing their animoſities. Jack was then called, and informed of the lady's offer, which he inſtantly accepted with the greateſt readineſs, and received immediate directions to her houſe.

Jack was now in a new ſphere of life. His face was waſhed, his hair combed, he was clothed afreſh, and appeared a very ſmart active lad.

His buſineſs was, to help in the ſtable, to water the horſes, to clean ſhoes, to perform errands, and to do all the jobs of the family; and in the diſcharge of theſe ſervices, he ſoon gave univerſal ſatisfaction. He was indefatigable in doing what he was ordered, never grumbled, or appeared out of temper, and ſeemed ſo quiet and inoffenſive in his manners, that every body wondered how he had acquired the character of being quarrelſome. In a ſhort time he became both the favourite and the drudge of the whole family; for ſpeak but kindly to him and call him a little ſoldier, and Jack was at every one's diſpoſal. This was Jack's particular foible and vanity;

nity; at his leiſure hours he would divert himſelf by the hour together, in poizing a dung-fork, charging with a broom-ſtick, and ſtanding ſentry at the ſtable-door. Another propenſity of Jack's which now diſcovered itſelf, was an immoderate love of horſes. The inſtant he was introduced into the ſtable, he attached himſelf ſo ſtrongly to theſe animals, that you would have taken him for one of the ſame ſpecies, or at leaſt a near relation. Jack was never tired with rubbing down and currying them; the coachman had ſcarcely any buſineſs but to ſit upon his box; all the operations of the ſtable were entruſted to Little Jack,

Jack, nor was it ever known that he neglected a ſingle particular. But what gave him more pleaſure than all the reſt, was ſometimes to accompany his miſtreſs upon a little horſe, which he managed with infinite dexterity.

Jack too diſcovered a great diſpoſition for all the uſeful and mechanic arts. He had ſerved an apprenticeſhip already to the manufactory of iron, and of this he was almoſt as vain as being a ſoldier. As he began to extend his knowledge of the world, he ſaw that nothing could be done without iron. "How would you plough the ground," ſaid Jack; "how would you dig your garden; how would you even light a fire, dreſs

dreſs a dinner, ſhoe a horſe, or do the leaſt thing in the world, if we workmen at the forge did not take the trouble of preparing it for you?" Thus Jack would ſometimes expatiate upon the dignity and importance of his own profeſſion, to the great

admiration of all the other ſervants.

Theſe

Theſe ideas naturally gave Jack a great eſteem for the profeſſion of a blackſmith, and in his occaſional viſits to the forge with the horſes, he learnt to make and fix a ſhoe as neatly as any artiſt in the country.

Nor were Jack's talents confined to the manufactory of iron; his love of horſes was ſo great, and his intereſt in every thing that related to them, that it was not long before he acquired a very competent knowledge in the art of ſadlery.

Jack would alſo ſometimes obſerve the carpenters when they were at work, and ſometimes by ſtealth attempt the management of their tools; in which he ſucceeded as well

well as in every thing elſe; ſo that he was looked upon by every body as a very active, ingenious boy.

There was in the family where he now lived a young gentleman, the nephew of his miſtreſs, who had loſt his parents, and was therefore brought up by his aunt. As Maſter Willets was ſomething younger than Jack, and a very good-natured boy, he ſoon began to take notice of him, and be much diverted with his company. Jack, indeed, was not undeſerving this attention; for although he could not boaſt any great advantages of education, his conduct was entirely free from all the vices to which ſome of the lower claſs of people

people are ſubject. Jack was never heard to ſwear, or expreſs himſelf with any indecency. He was civil and reſpectful in his manners to all his ſuperiors, aud uniformly good-natured to his equals. In reſpect to the animals entruſted to his care, he not only refrained from uſing them ill, but was never tired with doing them good offices. Added to this, he was ſober, temperate, hardy, active, and ingenious, and deſpiſed a lie as mnch as any of his betters. Maſter Willets now began to be much pleaſed with playing at cricket and trap-ball with Jack, who excelled at both theſe games. Maſter Willets had a little horſe which

which Jack looked after; and, not contented with looking after him in the beſt manner, he uſed to ride him at his leiſure hours with ſo much care and addreſs, that in a ſhort time he made him the moſt gentle and docile little animal in the country. Jack had acquired this knowledge, partly from his own experience, and partly from paying particular attention to an itinerant riding-maſter that had lately exhibited various feats in that neighbourhood. Jack attended him ſo cloſely, and made ſo good an uſe of his time, that he learned to imitate almoſt every thing he ſaw, and uſed to divert the ſervants and his young maſ-

ter with acting the taylor's riding to Brentford.

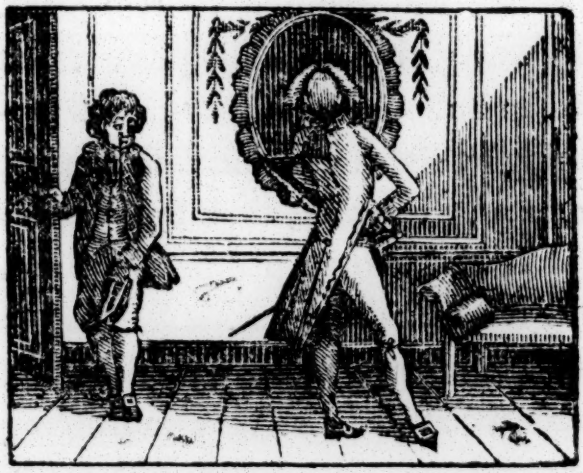
The young gentleman had a maſter who uſed to come three times a week to teach him accounts, and writing, and geography. Jack uſed to be ſometimes in the room while the leſſons were given, and liſtened, accord-

according to cuſtom, with ſo much attention to all that paſſed, that he received very conſiderable advantage for his own improvement. He had now a little money, and he laid ſome of it out to purchaſe pens and paper and a ſlate, with which at night he uſed to imitate every thing he had heard and ſeen in the day; and his little maſter, who began to love him very ſincerely, when he ſaw him ſo deſirous of improvement, contrived, under one pretence or another, to have him generally in the room while he was receiving inſtruction himſelf.

In this manner Jack went on for ſome years, leading a life very

agreeable to himſelf, and diſcharging his duty very much to the ſatisfaction of his miſtreſs. An unlucky accident at length happened to interrupt his tranquillity. A young gentleman came down to viſit Maſter Willets, who having been educated in France, and among genteel people in London, had a very great taſte for finery, and a ſupreme contempt for all the vulgar. His dreſs too was a little particular as well as his manners; for he ſpent half his time in adjuſting his head, wore a large black bag tied to his hair behind, and would ſometimes ſtrut about for half an hour together with his hat under his arm, and a little ſword by his

his ſide. This young man had a



ſupreme contempt for all the vulgar, which he did not attempt to conceal; and when he had heard the ſtory of Jack's birth and education, he could ſcarcely bear to be in the ſame room with him. Jack ſoon perceived the averſion which

the ſtranger entertained for him, and at firſt endeavoured to remove it, by every civility in his power; but when he found that he gained nothing by all his humility, his temper, naturally haughty, took fire, and, as far as he dared, he plainly ſhowed all the reſentment he felt.

It happened one day, after Jack had received ſome very mortifying uſage from this young gentleman, that, as he was walking along the road, he met with a ſhow-man who was returning from a neighbouring fair with ſome wild beaſts in a cart. Amongſt the reſt was a middle-ſized monkey, who was not under cover like the reſt, and

played ſo many antic tricks, and made ſo many grimaces, as engaged all Jack's attention, and delighted him very much; for he always had a propenſity or every ſpecies of drollery. After a variety of queſtions and converſation, the ſhow-man, who probably wanted to be rid of his monkey, propoſed to Jack to purchaſe him for half a crown. Jack could not reſiſt the temptation of being maſter of ſuch a droll diverting animal, and therefore agreed to the bargain. But when he was left alone with his purchaſe, whom he led along by a chain, he ſoon began to repent his haſte, and knew not how to diſpoſe of him.

As

As there was, however, no remedy, Jack brought him carefully home, and confined him ſafe in an out-houſe which was not applied to any uſe. In this ſituation he kept him ſeveral days, without accident, and frequently viſited him at his leiſure hours, with apples, nuts, and ſuch other preſents as he could procure. Among the other tricks which the monkey had been taught to perform, he would riſe upon his hind-legs at the word of command, and bow with the greateſt politeneſs to the company. Jack, who had found out theſe accompliſhments in his friend, could not reſiſt the impulſe of making them ſubſervient

to

to his reſentment. He therefore, one day, procured ſome flour, with which he powdered his monkey's head, fixed a large paper bag to his neck, put an old hat under his arm, and tied a large iron ſkewer to his ſide, inſtead of a ſword; and thus

accoutred led him about with infi-

nite

nite ſatisfaction, calling him Monſieur, and jabbering ſuch broken French as he had picked up from the converſation of the viſitor. It happened very unluckily at this very inſtant, that the young gentleman himſelf paſſed by, and inſtantly ſaw, at one glance, the intended copy of himſelf, and all the malice of Little Jack, who was leading him along, and calling to him to hold up his head and look like a perſon of faſhion. Rage inſtantly took poſſeſſion of his mind, and, drawing his ſword, which he happened to have on, he run the poor monkey through with a ſudden thruſt, and laid him dead upon the ground.

What

What more he might have done, is uncertain; for Jack, who was not of a temper to ſee calmly ſuch an outrage committed upon an animal whom he conſidered as his friend, flew upon him like a fury, and, wreſting the ſword out of his hand, broke it into twenty pieces. The

young

young gentleman himſelf received a fall in the ſcuffle, which, though it did him no material damage, daubed all his clothes, and totally ſpoiled the whole arrangement of his dreſs. At this inſtant the lady herſelf, who had heard the noiſe, came down, and the violence of poor Jack was too apparent to be excuſed. Jack, indeed, was ſubmiſſive to his miſtreſs, whom he was very ſorry to have offended; but when he was ordered to make conceſſions to the young gentleman, as the only conditions upon which he could be kept in the family, he abſolutely refuſed. He owned, indeed, that he was much to blame for reſenting the provocations

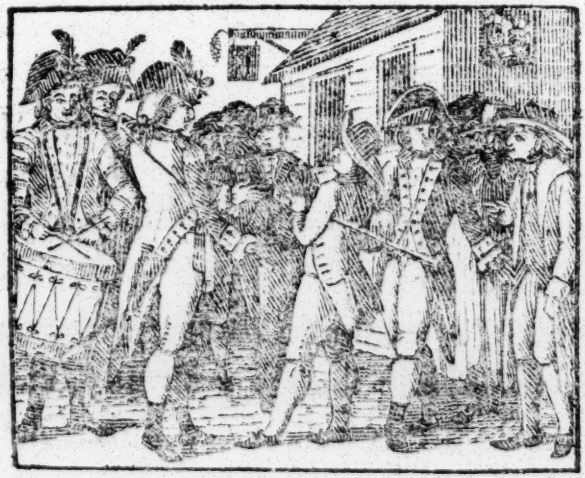
he

he had received, and endeavouring to make his miſtreſs's company ridiculous; but as to what he had done in defence of his friend the monkey, there were no poſſible arguments which could convince him he was in the leaſt to blame; nor would he have made ſubmiſſions to the king himſelf. This unfortunate obſtinacy of Jack's was the occaſion of his being diſcharged, very much to the regret of the lady herſelf, and ſtill more to that of Maſter Willets. Jack therefore packed up his clothes in a little bundle, ſhook all his fellow-ſervants by the hand, took an affectionate leave of his kind maſter,

and once more ſallied out upon his travels.

He had not walked far before he came to a town, where a party of ſoldiers were beating up for volunteers. Jack mingled with the crowd that ſurrounded the recruiting ſergeant,

geant, and liſtened with great pleaſure to the ſound of the fifes and drums; nor could he help mechanically holding up his head, and ſtepping forward with an air that ſhowed the trade was not entirely new to him. The ſergeant ſoon took



notice of theſe geſtures, and ſeeing

him a ſtrong likely lad, came up to him, clapped him upon the back, and aſked him if he would enliſt. "You are a brave boy," ſaid he, "I can ſee it in your looks—Come along with us, and I don't doubt in a few weeks you'll be as complete a ſoldier as thoſe who have been in the army for years." Jack made no anſwer to this, but by inſtantly poizing his ſtick, cocking his hat fiercely, and going through the whole manual exerciſe.—"Prodigious, indeed!" cried the ſergeant; "I ſee you have been in the army already, and can eat fire as well as any of us. But come with us, my brave lad; you ſhall live well, have little to do, but

now

now and then fight for your King and country, as every gentleman ought; and in a ſhort time, I don't doubt but I ſhall ſee you a captain, or ſome great man, rolling in wealth, which you have got out of the ſpoils of your enemies."—"No," ſaid Jack: "captain! that will never do—no tricks upon travellers—I know better what I have to expect if I enliſt—I muſt lie hard, live hard, expoſe my life and limbs every hour of the day, and be ſoundly cudgelled every now and then into the bargain."--"Oons!" cried the ſergeant, "where did the young dog pick up all this? He is enough to make a whole compa-

ny deſert."—"No," ſaid Jack, "they ſhall never deſert through me; for though I know this, as I am at preſent out of employment, and have a great reſpect for the character of a gentleman ſoldier, I will enliſt directly in your regiment."--"A brave fellow, indeed," ſaid the ſergeant; "here, my boy, here is your money and your cockade," both which he directly preſented, for fear his recruit ſhould change his mind; and thus in a moment Little Jack became a ſoldier.

He had ſcarcely time to feel himſelf eaſy in his new accoutrements, before he was embarked for India

in the character of a marine. This

kind of life was entirely new to Jack; however, his uſual activity and ſpirit of obſervation did not deſert him here, and he had not been embarked many weeks, before he was perfectly acquainted with all the duty of a ſailor, and in that reſpect

equal

equal to moſt on board. It happened that the ſhip in which he ſailed, touched at the Cormo Iſlands, in order to take in wood and water; theſe are ſome little iſlands near the coaſt of Africa, inhabited by blacks. Jack often went on ſhore with the officers, attending them on their ſhooting parties to carry their powder and ſhot, and the game they killed. All this country conſiſts of very lofty hills, covered with trees and ſhrubs of various kinds, which never loſe their leaves, from the perpetual warmth of the climate. Through theſe it is frequently difficult to force a way, and the hills themſelves abound in precipices.

It

It happened that one of the officers whom Jack was attending upon a ſhooting party took aim at ſome great bird and brought it down; but as it fell into a deep valley, over ſome rocks which it was impoſſible to deſcend, they deſpaired of gaining their prey. Jack immediately, with officious haſte, ſet off and ran down the more level ſide of the hill, thinking to make a circuit and reach the valley into which the bird had fallen. He ſet off, therefore; but as he was totally ignorant of the country, he, in a ſhort time, buried himſelf ſo deep in the wood, which grew continually thicker, that he knew not which way to proceed. He

then thought it moſt prudent to return; but this he found as difficult to effect as the other. He therefore wandered about the woods with inconceivable difficulty all day, but could never find his company, nor even reach the ſhore, or obtain the proſpect of the ſea. At length the night approached; and Jack, who perceived it to be impoſſible to do that in the dark which he had not been able to effect in the light, lay down under a rock, and compoſed himſelf to reſt, as well as he was able. The next day he roſe with the light, and once more attempted to regain the ſhore. But unfortunately he had totally loſt all idea of the direction

rection he ought to purſue, and ſaw nothing around him but the diſmal proſpect of woods and hills and precipices, without a guide or path. Jack now began to be very hungry; but as he had a fowling-piece with him, and powder and ſhot, he ſoon procured himſelf a dinner; and kindling a fire with ſome dry leaves

and

and ſticks, he roaſted his game upon the embers, and dined as comfortably as he could be expected to do in ſo forlorn a ſituation. Finding himſelf much refreſhed, he purſued his journey, but with as little ſucceſs as ever. On the third day he indeed came in ſight of the ſea, but found that he was quite on a different ſide of the iſland from that where he had left the ſhip, and that neither ſhip nor boat was to be ſeen. Jack now loſt all hopes of rejoining his comrades, for he knew the ſhip was to ſail at fartheſt upon the third day, and would not wait for him. He therefore ſat down very penſively upon a rock, and caſt his eyes upon the vaſt extent of ocean which was

ſtretched

ſtretched out before him. He found himſelf now abandoned upon a ſtrange country, without a ſingle friend, acquaintance, or even any one who ſpoke the ſame language. He at firſt thought of ſeeking out the natives, and making known to them his deplorable ſtate; but he began to fear the reception he might meet with among them. They might not be pleaſed, he thought, with his company, and might take the liberty of treating him as the white men generally treat the blacks when they get them into their poſſeſſion; that is, make him work hard with very little victuals, and knock him on the head if he attempted

to run away. "And therefore," ſays Jack, as he was meditating all alone, "it may, perhaps, be better for me to ſtay quiet where I am. It is true indeed, I ſhall not have much company to talk to, but then I ſhall have nobody to quarrel with me, or baa, or laugh at my poor daddy and mammy. Neither do I at preſent ſee how I ſhall get a livelihood, when my powder and ſhot are all expended; but however I ſhall hardly be ſtarved, for I ſaw ſeveral kinds of fruit in the woods, and ſome roots which look very much like carrots. As to clothes, when mine wear out, I ſhall not much want new ones; for the weather

weather is charmingly warm; and therefore, all things conſidered, I don't ſee why I ſhould not be as happy here as in any other place."—When Jack had finiſhed his ſpeech he ſet himſelf to finding a lodging for the night. He had not examined far before he found a dry cavern in a rock, which he thought would prove a very comfortable reſidence. He therefore went to work with an hatchet he had with him, and cut ſome boughs of trees, which he ſpread upon the floor, and over thoſe a long ſilky kind of graſs, which he found in plenty near the place, to make himſelf a bed. His next care was, how to ſecure himſelf in caſe of

any attack; for he did not know whether the iſland contained any wild beaſts or not. He therefore cut down ſeveral branches of trees, and wove them into a kind of wicker-work, as he had ſeen the men do hurdles when he lived with the farmer: with this contrivance he found he could very ſecurely barricade the entrance of his cave. And now, as the evening was again approaching, he began to feel himſelf hungry, and ſeeking along the ſea-ſhore, he found ſome ſhell-fiſh, which ſupplied him with a plentiful meal. The next day Jack aroſe, a little melancholy indeed, but with a reſolution to ſtruggle manfully with the

the difficulties of his ſituation. He walked into the woods, and ſaw ſeveral kinds of fruit and berries, ſome of which he ventured to eat, as the birds had pecked them, and found the taſte agreeable. He alſo dug up ſeveral ſpecies of roots, but feared to taſte them, leſt they ſhould be poiſonous. At length, he ſelected one that very much reſembled a potatoe, and determined to roaſt it in the embers, and taſte a very ſmall bit. "It can hardly," thought Jack, "do me much hurt, in ſo very ſmall a quantity; and if that agrees with me I will increaſe the doſe." The root was fortunately extremely wholeſome and nutritive, ſo that

Jack was in a very ſhort time tolerably ſecure againſt the danger of wanting food. In this manner did Jack lead a kind of ſavage, but tolerably contented life, for ſeveral months; during which time he enjoyed perfect health, and was never diſcovered by any of the natives. He uſed ſeveral times a day to viſit the ſhore, in hopes that ſome ſhip might paſs that way, and deliver him from his ſolitary impriſonment. This, at length, happened, by the boat of an Engliſh ſhip, that was ſailing to India, happening to touch upon the coaſt: Jack inſtantly hailed the crew; and the officer, upon hearing the ſtory, agreed to receive him; the

captain

captain too, when he found that Jack was by no means a contemptible ſailor, very willingly gave him his paſſage, and promiſed him a gratuity beſides if he behaved well.

Jack arrived in India without any accident, and relating his ſtory, was permitted to ſerve in another regiment,

ment, as his own was no longer there. He ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his courage and good behaviour on ſeveral occaſions, and before long was advanced to the rank of a ſergeant. In this capacity, he was ordered out upon an expedition into the remote parts of the country. The little army in which he ſerved now marched on for ſeveral weeks, through a burning climate, and in want of all the neceſſaries of life. At length they entered upon ſome extenſive plains, which bordered upon the celebrated country of the Tartars. Jack was perfectly well acquainted with the hiſtory of this people, and their method of fighting. He knew them

to

to be ſome of the beſt horſemen in the world; indefatigable in their attacks; though often repulſed, returning to the charge; and not to be invaded with impunity. He therefore took the liberty of obſerving to ſome of the officers, that nothing could be more dangerous than their raſhly engaging themſelves in thoſe extenſive plains, where they were every moment expoſed to the attacks of cavalry, without any ſucceſsful method of defence, or place of retreat, in caſe of any misfortune. Theſe remonſtrances were not much attended to, and after a few hours farther march, they were alarmed by the approach of a conſiderable body

body of Tartar horſemen. They

however drew up with all the order they were able, and firing ſeveral ſucceſſive vollies, endeavoured to keep the enemy at a diſtance. But the Tartars had no deſign of doing that with a conſiderable loſs, which they were ſure of doing with eaſe and ſafety.

ſafety. Inſtead therefore of charging the Europeans, they contented themſelves with giving continual alarms, and menacing them on every ſide, without expoſing themſelves to any conſiderable danger. The army now attempted to retreat, hoping that they ſhould be able to arrive at the neighbouring mountains, where they would be ſafe from the incurſions of the horſe. But in this attempt they were equally diſappointed; for another conſiderable body of enemies appeared on that ſide, and blocked their paſſage. The Europeans now found they were ſurrounded on all ſides, and that reſiſtance was vain. The commanding

manding officer therefore judged it expedient to try what could be effected by negotiation, and ſent one of his officers, who underſtood ſomething of the Tartar language, to treat with the general of the enemies. The Tartar chief received the Europeans with great civility, and after having gently reproached them with their ambition, in coming ſo far to invade a people who had never injured them, he conſented upon very moderate conditions to their enlargement. But he inſiſted upon having their arms delivered up, except a very few which he permitted them to keep for defence in their return, and upon retaining

taining a certain number of Europeans as hoſtages for the performance of the ſtipulated articles. Among thoſe who were thus left with the Tartars Jack happened to be included; and while all the reſt ſeemed inconſolable at being thus made priſoners by a barbarous nation, he alone, accuſtomed to all the viciſſitudes of life, retained his cheerfulneſs, and prepared to meet every reverſe of fortune with his uſual firmneſs.

The Tartars, among whom Jack was now to reſide, conſtitute ſeveral different tribes or nations which inhabit an immenſe extent of country both in Europe and Aſia. Their

country is in general open and uncultivated, without cities or towns, ſuch as we ſee in England. The inhabitants themſelves are a bold and hardy race of men, that live in ſmall tents, and change their place of abode with the different ſeaſons of the year. All their property conſiſts in herds of cattle, which they drive along with them from place to place, and upon whoſe milk and fleſh they ſubſiſt. They are particularly fond of horſes, of which they have a ſmall but excellent breed, hardy and indefatigable for the purpoſes of war; and they excel in the management of them, beyond what it is eaſy to conceive. Immenſe herds of theſe animals

animals wander looſe about the deſerts, but marked with the particular mark of the perſon or tribe to which they belong. When they want any of theſe animals for uſe, a certain number of their young men jump upon their horſes with nothing but an halter to guide them, each carrying in his hand a pole with a nooſe of cord at the end. When they come in ſight of the herd, they purſue the horſe they wiſh to take at full ſpeed, come up with him in ſpite of his ſwiftneſs, and never fail to throw the nooſe about his neck as he runs. They are frequently known to jump upon young horſes that have paſſed their whole life in the deſert,

and, with only a girth around the animal's body to hold by, maintain their ſeat, in ſpite of all his violent exertions, until they have wearied him out and reduced him to perfect obedience. Such was the nation with whom the lot of Jack was now to reſide, nor was he long before he had an opportunity of ſhowing his talents.

It happened that a favourite horſe of the chief was taken with a violent fever, and ſeemed to be in immediate danger of death. The Kan, for ſo he is called among the Tartars, ſeeing his horſe grow hourly worſe, at length applied to the Europeans to know if they could ſuggeſt any thing

thing for his recovery. All the officers were profoundly ignorant of farriery; but when the application was made to Jack, he desired to see the horse, and with great gravity began to feel his pulse, by passing his hand within the animal's foreleg; which gave the Tartars a very

high idea of his ingenuity. Finding the animal was in a high fever, he propoſed to the Kan to let him blood, which he had learned to do very dexterouſly in England. He obtained permiſſion to do as he pleaſed, and having by great good luck a lancet with him, he let him blood very dexterouſly in the neck. After this operation he covered him up, and gave him a warm potion made out of ſuch ingredients as he could procure upon the ſpot, and left him quiet. In a few hours the horſe began to mend, and, to the great joy of the Kan, perfectly recovered in a few days. This cure, ſo opportunely performed, raiſed the repu-

reputation of Jack ſo high, that every body came to conſult him about their horſes, and in a ſhort time he was the univerſal farrier of the tribe. The Kan himſelf conceived ſo great an affection for him, that he gave him an excellent horſe to ride upon and attend him in his hunting-parties;

and

and Jack, who excelled in the art horſemanſhip, managed him ſo well as to gain the eſteem of the whole nation.

The Tartars, though they are excellent horſemen, have no idea of managing their horſes, unleſs by violence: but Jack in a ſhort time, by continual care and attention, made his horſe ſo docile and obedient to every motion of his hand and leg, that the Tartars themſelves would gaze upon him with admiration, and allow themſelves to be outdone. Not contented with this, he procured ſome iron, and made his horſe ſhoes in the European taſte: this alſo was matter of aſtoniſhment to all

the Tartars, who are accuſtomed to ride their horſes unſhod. He next obſerved that the Tartar ſaddles are all prodigiouſly large and cumberſome, raiſing the horſeman up to a great diſtance from the back of his horſe. Jack ſet himſelf to work, and was not long before he had completed ſomething like an Engliſh hunting ſaddle, on which he paraded before the Kan. All mankind ſeem to have a paſſion for novelty; and the Kan was ſo delighted with this effort of Jack's ingenuity, that, after paying him the higheſt compliments, he intimated a deſire of having ſuch a ſaddle for himſelf. Jack was the moſt obliging creature in the world, and

and ſpared no labour to ſerve his friends; he went to work again, and in a ſhort time completed a ſaddle ſtill more elegant for the Kan. Theſe exertions gained him the favour and eſteem both of the Kan and all the tribe; ſo that Jack was an univerſal favourite and loaded with preſents, while all the reſt of the officers, who had never learned to make a ſaddle or an horſe-ſhoe, were treated with contempt and indifference. Jack, indeed, behaved with the greateſt generoſity to his countrymen, and divided with them all the mutton and veniſon which were given him; but he could not help ſometimes obſerving, that it was great

great pity they had not learned to make an horſe-ſhoe inſtead of dancing and dreſſing hair.

And now an ambaſſador arrived from the Engliſh ſettlements, with an account that all the conditions of the treaty had been performed, and demanding the reſtitution of the priſoners. The Tartar chief was too much a man of honour to delay an inſtant, and they were all reſtored; but before they ſet out, Jack laboured with indefatigable zeal to finiſh a couple of ſaddles, and a dozen horſe-ſhoes, which he preſented to the Kan, with many expreſſions of gratitude. The Kan was charmed with this proof of his affection, and

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in return made him a preſent of a couple of fine horſes, and ſeveral valuable ſkins of beaſts. Jack arrived without any accident at the Engliſh ſettlements, and ſelling his ſkins and horſes, found himſelf in poſſeſſion of a moderate ſum of money. He now began to have a deſire to return to England; and one of the officers, who had often been obliged to him during his captivity, procured him a diſcharge. He embarked therefore, with all his property, on board a ſhip, which was returning home, and in a few months was ſafely landed at Plymouth.

But Jack was too active and too prudent to give himself up to idleness. After considering various schemes of business, he determined to take up his old trade of forging; and for that purpose made a journey into the North, and found his old master alive, and as active as ever.

His maſter, who had always entertained an eſteem for Jack, welcomed him with great affection, and being in want of a foreman, he engaged him, at a very handſome price, for that place. Jack was now indefatigable in the execution of his new office: inflexibly honeſt where the intereſts of his maſter were concerned, and at the ſame time humane and obliging to the men who were under him, he gained the affection of all about him. In a few years, his maſter was ſo thoroughly convinced of his merit, that, growing old himſelf, he took Jack into partnerſhip, and committed the management of the whole buſineſs to his care. He continued

to

to exert the ſame qualities now which he had done before, by which means he improved the buſineſs ſo much, as to gain a conſiderable fortune, and become one of the moſt reſpectable manufacturers in the country.—But with all this proſperity, he never diſcovered the leaſt pride or haughtineſs; on the contrary, he employed part of his fortune to purchaſe the moor where he had formerly lived, and built himſelf a ſmall but convenient houſe, upon the very ſpot where his daddy's hut had formerly ſtood. Hither he would ſometimes retire from buſineſs, and cultivate his garden with his own hands, for he hated idleneſs.

To all his poor neighbours he was kind and liberal, relieving them in their diſtreſs, and often entertaining them

them at his houſe, where he uſed to dine with them, with the greateſt affability, and frequently relate his own ſtory; in order to prove that it is of very little conſequence how a man comes into the world, provided he behaves well, and diſcharges his duty when he is in it.

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